

REMARKS

Claims 7 - 21 are pending in the present application. Claims, 7, 8, 9 and 20 have been amended. New Claim 21 has been added. Claims 1 - 6 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant notes with thanks and appreciation that claims 7 - 20 were found to have allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 - 20 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Independent claims 7, 8, 9 and 20 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Specifically, "the relief valve seal being slidably in contact with at least one of an outer periphery of the ball receiver and an inner periphery of the valve hole such that the elastic body seal is not compressed in an axial direction of the ball receiver" has been amended to recite "the elastic body seal being slidably in contact with at least one of an outer periphery of the ball receiver and an inner periphery of the valve hole such that the elastic body seal is not compressed in an axial direction of the ball receiver" in the independent claims. Further claim 20 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis to "a spring receiver" and the recite that "outer peripheral portion of the spring receiver". Accordingly, the claims are not indefinite and, thus, are allowable.

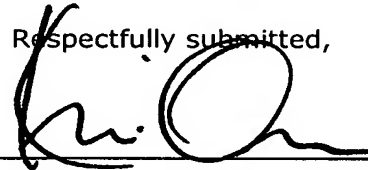
The specification was amended and proposed amendments to Figure 5 have been made to show reference numbers 50a and 50b for a plate surface of the spring receiver and an outer peripheral portion of the spring receiver, respectively. No new matter has been added.

Accompanying this response is a check for \$400 for the additional independent claims. Any over payment or underpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account Number 04-2219, referencing our docket number 13684.

CONCLUSION

Applicant asserts that all of the objections have been obviated and, therefore now respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections, and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

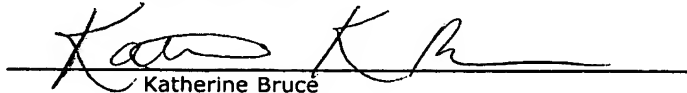


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 19, 2005.


Katherine Bruce